

Speaker: Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam
Title: Jesus Prayed For You
Text: John 17:20-26

Introduction

Prayer is the central point to the spiritual life.

The Apostle Paul emphasized the priority of prayer.

1Timothy 2:1 (NKJV)

“First of all, I urge that prayers ... be made...

Samuel, the godly judge of Israel declared that prayerlessness is sin.

1Sam 12:23 (NKJV)

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.”

Jesus instructed that at all times men/women ought to pray.

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.”

The Prayer of Jesus in John 17

John 17 is known as the Intercessory Prayer of Jesus before His crucifixion.

John 17:1-5 Jesus prayed for Himself.

John 17:6-19 Jesus prayed for His disciples.

John 17:20-26 Jesus prayed for all believers.

This morning's address is taken from Jesus' prayer for all believers.

I Jesus Prayed for our Unity

Unity of shared-conviction

Unity of Glory

John 17:20-23 (NKJV)

v20 *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;*

v21 *that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

v22 *And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:*

v23 *I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

John 17:6, 8 (NKJV)

v6 *“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.*

v8 *For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.”*

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NKJV)

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

II Jesus Prayed for our Destiny

The Believer’s destiny is Heaven

John 17:24 (NKJV)

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

v1 *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

v2 *In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

v3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

Philippians 3:18-20 (NKJV)

v18 *“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

v19 *whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame – who set their mind on earthly things.*

v20 *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.”

III Jesus Prayed for Relational Love

The perfect love relationship between Jesus and God the Father is the relationship Jesus desires for us.

John 17:25-26 (NKJV)

v25 *“O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.*

v26 *And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”*

John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

v34 *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

v35 *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Proverbs 10:12 (NKJV)

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.”

1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

“Love covers a multitude of sins (faults).”

1 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.”

Galatians 5:13, 14 (NKJV)

v13 *“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

v14 *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Conclusion

For Jesus’ Prayer to be experienced in our lives we must be willing to:

Give in

*To grow in unity means giving in.

It means refusing to get hung up on trivial disagreements or certain particular philosophies, methods or styles.

Those who enjoy Christian fellowship in its deepest sense have a high tolerance level.

Give up

*To know your destiny means giving up.

Being secure in our future requires that we stop striving for just things in this present life. Be willing to give up everything that hinders our race and trust Him. Whatever happens ... we are heading toward our destiny because we wholeheartedly follow His direction.

Hebrew 12:1 (NKJV)

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Give out

*To show His love means giving out.

Christian love is visible and tangible. God not only tells us He loves us, He also shows it.

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”